GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:445
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2006
FESTIVAL OF INDIA IN BRUSSELS
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a)Whether the Government proposed to hold 'Festival of India' in Brussels, the capital of Belgium ;

(b) If so, the details thereof ;

(c) The reasons for reviving the festival after a gap of more than 15 years and reasons for choosing Brussels as the venue for the festival; and

(d) The details of the expenditure likely to be incurred and revenue generated through this event?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), New Delhi in partnership with Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism and in collaboration with the Centre for Fine Arts (BOZAR), Brussels, is organizing 'Festival of India' in Brussels during October 2006 to January 2007. Various events are being organized during the Festival including performing art, exhibitions, seminars, lectures, fashion shows, food festivals, film festivals, talks by eminent writers/authors, souvenir shops and exhibition of some of the early images of iconic Indian art and painting. Ministry of Culture has organized a three months long exhibition on 1500 years of Indian Civilization entitled "Tejas".

(c): In the last 15 years India has emerged as an important player in a changed world. Through this event, the efforts are being made to link the glory of India's past with the present and to the potential of future. Brussels, being the capital of European Union provides an excellent location to showcase India's cultural diversity and civilization and also to further the objectives of an India − EU strategic partnership in areas such as business and technology.

(d): The expenditure on this event will be shared by various Indian Departments/ Organizations responsible for putting up their components and by the Centre for Fine Arts (BOZAR) in Brussels. Ministry of Culture has provided an outlay of Rs. 3 crore for the exhibition while the share of Indian Council for Cultural Relations is approximately Rs. 5.00 crore. As a result of this event, India will gain various long-term benefits by exchanging its cultural image.